



BOARD OF CORRECTIONS MEETING — JUNE 2017

Meeting. The Board of Corrections met June 2, 2017, at the North Central Correctional Facility (NCCF) in Rockwell City. Warden Robert Johnson welcomed the Board. The NCCF was built from 1916 to 1918 and the facility grounds cover 220 acres. There are approximately 98 staff and 500 offenders, and the major goal of the NCCF is to teach responsibility before the offenders are released from their prison sentences. NCCF is a releasing institution based upon reentry, and there are several work release and educational opportunities for the inmates. The institution fosters horses for the Animal Rescue League and has several vegetable gardens that produced over 40,000 pounds of produce last year that were used in meal preparation for the inmates. Warden Johnson is also warden at the Fort Dodge Correctional Facility (FDCF) and stated that there was a lot of cooperation between the FDCF and NCCF staff resources, given the close proximity between the two institutions.

Department of Corrections (DOC) Director Jerry Bartruff provided an update of his activity and items of interest since the last meeting, which included:

- Celebrating National Correctional Officers and Employees Week.
- An event with the Department of Administrative Services on equal employment opportunities and tools to increase diversity of staff.
- An event at the Evelyn K. Davis Center in Des Moines held with Workforce Development on recruiting underprivileged persons into the construction business trade.
- Iowa Prison Industries will start selling computer tablets to inmates that can be used for music, education, and communicating with Parole Officers. Access to the Internet will not be available.
- Meeting with developers with an interest of converting Hope Hall in Clarinda into housing.
- Attending the graduation of 86 offenders from various programs at FDCF.
- There is an increasing population of individuals leaving prison with nursing home and elderly care needs. Director Bartruff met with representatives from the Department of Human Services regarding the placement of two people with special needs that are leaving prison.

Abby Underberg of Iowa Central Community College presented information on high school equivalency tests, literacy programs, life skills classes, special education, and vocational opportunities available at the FDCF and NCCF. The Second Chance Pell pilot program is available for application for several vocational programs including welding, supply chain management, culinary baking, and industrial mechanics at those two institutions. Current challenges for the educational programs include adequate space, instructor availability, getting offenders eligible for financial aid, and time conflicts with treatment programs.

Steve Dick of DOC gave a budget update. He stated that FY 2017 has been a tough year and that finding efficiencies is important. To that end, the DOC is investigating how administrative functions can be shared while maintaining the integrity of each institution. Currently the NCCF is on track to end the fiscal year without a deficit. Overall throughout the State, DOC FTE positions are being left open to handle budget reductions. For FY 2018, positions will not be filled right away and budgets will be monitored on a daily basis. The humidity project at the new Iowa State Penitentiary (ISP) should be finished by June 30, 2017. Dick also stated that there is a possible opportunity to lease space at the old ISP site to Lee County Health Services, and moneys from that lease would help offset utility costs.

Ryan Takatsuka, a teacher from the Fort Dodge High School, presented information on his externship spent at the FDCF. Takatsuka often spends time talking with high school students about career opportunities and stated that the experience and knowledge he received will help him to inform students about the benefits and opportunities of choosing a career in the correctional field.

Next Meeting. The next Board meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on July 7, 2017, at the Fourth Judicial District office in Council Bluffs. For additional information, see the DOC website: <http://www.doc.state.ia.us/BoardOfCorrections>.

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